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NO NETWORK—BUT CIA ALLEGES COKE TRAFFICKING

# Contra-drug probe

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WASHINGTON — Congressional Iran-Contra investigators have found no evidence linking Contras to a widespread drug network, but a top CIA official said one rebel group engaged in "a lot of cocaine trafficking."

An Iran-Contra committee report said investigators, after talking to hundreds of witnesses and reviewing documents as part of the investigation, found "no corroboration of media-exploited" charges that the rebel organization or its leaders were engaged in organized drug trafficking.

But two other congressional committees continue to investigate the

charges. Committee aides said both panels would push on despite the Iran-Contra committee finding.

## Quick study charged

"I understand they made only a cursory investigation, so I don't see how they can say that," said Rep. William Hughes (D-N.J.), chairman of the House judiciary subcommittee on crime.

A spokesman for Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass.), head of a Senate foreign relations subcommittee on narcotics, said his panel had turned up enough information to continue the investigation.

Secret testimony of CIA Central American chief Alan Fiers, released yesterday, was apparently the first public acknowledgement by

the U.S. government of some Contra drug involvement. But Fiers told the committee that drug-running involved only members of Eden Pastora's wing of the Contras. The CIA cut off funding to Pastora's largely independent band when he refused to join the larger CIA-trained rebel force in the north of Nicaragua. Since then, Pastora has quit the struggle.

Fiers had testified that there was no link between the Contra organization or current Contra members and cocaine smuggling. And Fiers, whose name was blacked out of the testimony transcript, said U.S. officials "were at no time a party, directly or indirectly" to drug trafficking.

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